

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 164406

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

S E C R E T STATE 164406

1. IN CONNECTION WITH A REVIEW OF U.S. TREATY NEGOTIATIONS WITH PANAMA, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE, HAS DIRECTED THE IG/ARA TO UNDERTAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF TRANSFERRING USSOUTHCOM FROM THE CANAL ZONE TO ANOTHER LOCATION, I.E. WITHIN THE UNITED STATES. THIS STUDY IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE BY OCTOBER 30, 1973.

2. THIS STUDY IS TO CONSIDER INTER ALIA (A) THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 164406

DIPLOMATIC, MILITARY AND POLITICAL EFFECT ON U.S.-LATIN

AMERICAN RELATIONS OF THE CURRENT LOCATION OF THE COMMAND IN A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY, AND, CONVERSELY THE IMPACT IF IT WERE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE U.S. (ONE OF THE POSSIBLE LOCATIONS IS PUERTO RICO), (B) THE VIEWS OF THIRD NATIONS ON THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE CANAL ZONE AS IT RELATES TO THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY ISSUE.

3. THE PRIMARY MISSION OF USSOUTHCOM AND ITS ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE COMPONENTS IS THE DEFENSE OF THE PANAMA CANAL. IN ADDITION, THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF (USCINCSO) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA. THESE INCLUDE:

- (1) THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LATIN AMERICA.
- (2) REPRESENT DOD IN OFFICIAL VISITS TO LATIN AMERICAN MILITARY LEADERS.
- (3) COORDINATION OF U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE LAND AREAS OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.
- (4) MAINTENANCE OF PLANS FOR EVACUATION OF U.S. CITIZENS AND FOR DISASTER RELIEF.
- (5) PLAN AND CONDUCT JOINT AND COMBINED EXERCISES.
- (6) COORDINATE SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA.

4. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT COUNTRY TEAM COMMENTS ON THOSE ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION COVERED IN PARAS 2A AND 2B ABOVE. COMMENTS SHOULD REACH THE DEPARTMENT NLT AUGUST 30 WITH COPIES TO SECDEF, JCS AND CINCSO. ROGERS

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